



May 4, 2016

Written comments for House Families, Children and Seniors Committee
Re: HB 5559

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of
Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C.S. Mott
Children's Hospital and Von
Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American
Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County Public Health
Department

Health Department of Northwest
Michigan

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Michigan Association for Infant
Mental Health

Michigan School Health
Coordinators' Association

Michigan State Medical Society

School-Community Health
Alliance of Michigan

Washtenaw County Public
Health

GENERAL MEMBERS

Maternal-Newborn Nurse
Professionals of Southeastern
Michigan

Michigan Association of School
Nurses

Michigan Section, Association of
Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Zaagman
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The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health is comprised of large hospital systems, statewide organizations and smaller local entities organized around the belief that through a collective voice they can help shape policy and legislation that impact maternal and child health in Michigan. We support House Bill 5559.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Rep. Cox and her staff for their interest and commitment to updating Michigan's child safety seat statute. We helped initiate discussion with Rep. Cox at the urging of one of our members, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan Health System, where Dr. Michelle Macy practices in the emergency department and does research and evaluation with their Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit.

Michigan's child safety seat statute is out-of-date with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations and the National Highway Traffic Safety recommendations. Families get one set of information in their pediatrician's office and in marketing materials from seat manufacturers and another message about safety from Michigan statute. Just as the range of car seats has evolved and grown to meet the research available, we need a statute that reinforces the strongest standard.

HB 5559 will update and simplify Michigan statute to create a "floor" safety standard predicated on weight for children weighing 50 lbs. and less and on height for children under 57 inches.

Too many children are moved into seats that are not appropriate for their physical development and it leaves them more vulnerable in a crash. More than 100 children younger than 8 die in a crash in Michigan each year. Far more have injuries that are more severe than they would have been in an appropriate safety seat.

One of the biggest issues you will hear Dr. Macy stress is the need for older children to stay in a booster seat until they fit in an adult harness properly, not simply allowed to move when they reach 8 years of age. Children placed in adult restraints that do not properly fit across their hips can suffer major internal damage from the force of the belt across their abdomen in a crash.

We look forward in engaging members and other stakeholders to update Michigan's child safety seat and restraint laws. MCMCH members, including Dr. Macy, can be available to provide clinical and practical data to support the need and help educate interested parties. Please contact me if you are interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy U. Zaagman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Zaagman" clearly legible.

Amy U. Zaagman, Executive Director